

THE IOWA FRIEND

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

Ministry Update..... by Tom Showalter

I have been in this position for five months. I am learning a lot and have a lot yet to learn. I have been reading history, minutes, and the Discipline. I am traveling and visiting with different people in different settings (All the feedback I get comes from the perspective of those who are sharing with me). Some sharing is through the lens of tradition and others from the lens of mission.

In the office, we have attempted to fine-tune the Pastor Information Sheet, this is given to prospective pastoral candidates to get their information that can then be forwarded to churches looking for pastors. Additionally, we have formulated a Church Information Sheet, which serves a similar purpose as the Pastor Information Sheet. Churches will complete information about their local meetings to give to pastoral candidates to provide information about local churches seeking pastoral leadership.

In the last five months, I have attempted to maintain contact with pastors throughout the Yearly Meeting through having coffee, lunch, or phone calls. This responsibility of being “a pastor to pastors” is what I have looked forward to the most and am enjoying the most. From my own experience, I do not want pastors to feel like no one cares or that they are alone with their personal or church struggles.

My job description expresses the need to communicate the IAYM vision. In my opinion, to respond wisely to any opinion, opposition, or request, Iowa Yearly Meeting needs to know who we are and what we believe. I believe what I am hearing seems to be an attempt to maintain a “middle of the road” approach to include all people (regardless of their beliefs), and attempt to keep peace which does not work long term. According to Scripture, church unity is an essential element of church health and church effectiveness.

With that in mind, the following are the compiled results of the World Café event from last year’s Yearly Meeting.

World Café analysis (3 questions used)

Question #1: What key elements (core values) will carry IAYM churches through the next decade? 115 responses with a little more than half (52%) dealing with relationships. Almost all of the others are focused on Bible, the Holy Spirit, and a Christ foundation.

Question #2: What are the most crucial needs of IAYM churches in order to carry out the key elements through the next decade and beyond? About 100 responses with 60 being relational in nature and the remaining about commitment, Christ, and reliance on Holy Spirit

Question #3: If you were king for the a day, how would you address the crucial needs of IAYM churches during the next decade? Of the approximately 100 responses, 70 are relational.

IAYM Vision for the future must be relational in nature and hold to the foundation of the Bible, Jesus Christ, the mission, and a reliance on the Holy Spirit. Dr. Frazier from Barclay College has been very helpful in analyzing the World Café results. He offers the following suggested core values:

Sound Doctrine: Biblically based and Friends heritage strong

Spirit Inspired and Spirit obedient

Salvation Minded: Great Commission oriented

Sincere Relationships: relationally focused

Personal

My family and I are still adjusting to life in Iowa. One challenge is dealing with aging parents 700-plus miles away. Recently, my father was diagnosed with an aggressive form of dementia characterized by paranoia and hallucinations. We are attempting to help from a distance. Life expectancy is 3-5 years from the time of diagnosis and diagnosis took place about a year ago.

We are still attempting to find new rhythms that meet the needs of the call God has for us. I am sure there have been things that are left out and overlooked, but what I am finding is that there is no such thing as normal. I am enjoying getting to know the wonderful people of Iowa Yearly Meeting and I do hope to continue to bring challenge and encouragement to pursue the mission God has entrusted to us. I pray regularly for revival to happen with the intention to do more than just fill pews, but to populate God’s Kingdom.

Come to the USFWI/QMI Triennial

Iowa Triennial Host Committee

You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11

Are you preparing now to “follow the path” to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for the USFWI/QMI Triennial Conference, July 7-10, 2016? The Iowa Host Committee and the USFWI Board are preparing an exciting 4-day adventure for each of you. We believe God has great things in store as we share in His presence and discover the many ways of His joy in our lives.

This promises to be a time of fellowship and fun, along with fantastic seminars and generous helpings of Midwestern food. We have specialty banquets planned, diverse daily activities, and exciting programs for adults, children, and youth. A nursery will be available for your little ones with care given by a certified day care provider.

A special feature at this Triennial is a Prayer Room where you can spend time in guided prayer and meditation.

From your hotel room you will step out onto a balcony overlooking the Waterfall Atrium, where you can seek out old friends and new. A heated swimming pool and fitness center are available for guests' use. There will also be a Hospitality Room where you can find a cup of tea/coffee and home-made Iowa goodies.

You might tour the nearby Hoover Presidential Library/Museum and Scattergood Quaker School; the Kalona, Iowa, Amish community; or our own Mesquakie Friends Center. The daily business of USFWI/QMI will be conducted, and singing and worship will begin and end each day. A daily newsletter will keep you informed about all the happenings.

The Quaker Men will be having their own meetings with speakers, prayer, and fellowship. One special event is a possible Skype prayer meeting with Quaker Men in Kenya, depending on technical challenges.

Our goal is for this conference to be a time of spiritual renewal, refreshment, and relaxation as you mix with Friends from all over the world and walk with God. Bring the entire family – there will be something for everyone.

Registration information and forms are available at www.usfwi.org (go to the temporary site while the old one is being re-done), or check with your church office or a local USFW society.

Many people head south to escape the cold of the Iowa winter. This past February a group from Lynnvile Friends Church did just that. They didn't sit back and relax however, but spent the week working at three different locations.

The group traveled from Lynnvile to Melody Lane Christian Renewal Center in Palmview, TX. Melody Lane would be the base camp for the week. One of the winter residents at Melody Lane, “Canada” John, had coordinated several work projects for the group.

Martin and Valarie had been the recipient of a home built by a previous mission team. The Lynnvile group was able to go and stain the kitchen cabinets, paint door & trim and lay tiles on the floor. Martin and Valarie both work full time and are trying hard to get ahead in providing for their family. It was a blessing to help them get a little further in completing the work in their home.



The group was also able to build a storage shed for a pastor. The building they use for a church was built by a group of students from Central College in Pella. The pastor and his wife are reaching out into their community bringing hope as they share the gospel of Jesus Christ. With the addition of

the storage shed they will be able to help meet more of the needs of their community.

The largest project of the week took place at the home of Ernesto & Hortencia. This middle aged couple is active in their church and community. Hortencia was delivered from drug addiction at age 29 and now talks too many in her neighborhood about giving up drugs and picking up Jesus instead.



The group was able to complete many upgrades in their home. Repair was done to the roof so it will no longer leak when it rains. The kitchen/dining area received insulation, drywall, new paint and beautiful tiles on the kitchen counters. The group also installed cabinets that were being recycled from a previous home.

For the first time they now have a sink and running water in the kitchen. No longer will Hortencia need to bring water in buckets. The group also ran water to the bathroom and installed a sink and shower head. A hot water heater was also hooked up. The buckets are now put away and a hot shower can be enjoyed for the first time for this couple.

Because of a generous anonymous donor the group was also able to purchase many necessities for them and even a new free standing swing. This couple is so giving and their appreciation for someone giving to them was overwhelming. What a blessing to be the hand of feet of Christ!

USFWI/QMI Triennial Information

USFWI Tentative Schedule (QMI will join us for some services, but they are planning much of their own programming)

Thursday - Get acquainted activities will help to get us started! Bookstore, Marketplace, and Prayer Stations will be open throughout the triennial. Plenary sessions will be followed by a Caribbean meal. The evening service entitled "Joyfully Believing" will be presented by Leunita Mugofwa. Women from Africa will be sharing in song.

Friday - Small worship groups start off our day. These will lead in to the Bible Study Hour led by Ruthie Tippin. Shorter plenary sessions will be in the morning. Afternoon tours are available as well as the Bookstore, Marketplace & Prayer Stations will be open. Time may also be spent getting acquainted with Friends from across FUM. The evening service, "Joyfully Following," will be presented by Lydia Grapine.

Saturday - In the morning there will be a special time of prayer for our FUM field staff and a memorial service to celebrate the lives of USFW members who have passed away since the last triennial. Workshops fill the afternoon followed by an Iowa Banquet. Nancy McCormick will speak about "Joyfully Serving." A Young Friends Worship service is planned following the evening service.

Sunday - USFW and QM will worship together using the theme "Celebrating Joy." Of course music will be a vital part of our worship each day, but today we hope to have the Conference Choir sing for us. We will say our goodbyes around a lunch buffet.

QuakerMen

"As iron sharpens iron; so one man sharpens another" Proverbs 27:17

Speakers: Men will have their own worship service each evening with speakers including Colin Saxton, Tim Hadley, Oscar Lugusa

Special Prayer Meeting

Join us for a prayer meeting using the internet to connect Kenyan Quaker Men & men at the conference led by Tim Hadley.

Bible Studies & Discussion

Bible studies will be led by Ron Bryan. There will be small group sharing following the same topics.



YOUNG FRIENDS CAMPS June 2016

June 10-12

Little Fry

K—2nd ** Cost: \$235

(Adult & Child)

\$110 for additional youth

June 17-19

Young Adult Weekender

Details and prices will be available next month

June 12-17

Jr/Sr high camp

7th—12th ** Cost: \$340

June 19-23

Elementary

3rd—6th ** Cost: \$285

**grade just completed

Early bird discount of \$25 before May 13th

On-line registration is available NOW at iaym.org/events

Stoking THE FIRE MAY 13-15, 2016

a gathering
in the power of Christ

May 13-15, 2016

Caraway Conference Center
Sophia, North Carolina

2nd Annual Stoking the Fire

A conference for North American Friends

For those who are:

- spiritually on fire
- smoldering embers, ready to burst into flame
- discerning risky new steps of faithfulness
- desiring deeper worship



Friends United Meeting

765-962-7573 info@fum.org fum.org

IAYM Missions Moment *Written by Rita Davis*

On January 31, 2016, in ninetyish degrees of heat, Brenda Cox and I witnessed immense joy among Kyela Friends as other Tanzanian Friends joined them for dedication of their meeting house. Bright orange, purple, lime and white cloth streamers radiated from a starburst at center front where the merged colors then trailed out along the building's side walls. We didn't notice the short unfinished portion of the roof left open to the sky until brought to our attention. (Funds to finish it have been sent.)

At 11:15 a.m. a choir from Kyela began the formal part of the program after at least an hour of singing and dancing (and sweating)! We brought greetings, followed by visiting choirs and preaching from visiting Friend's pastors, more singing and dancing until the delicious, bountiful lunch (catered by Kyela Friends women). When Joseph, an elder of the Kyela church, was to give a gospel reading from Matthew, he turned worn pages to where that reference should have been. He was embarrassed to ask for my Bible as his was missing the section asked for! We noted few had Bibles with them, mostly mere portions of the printed Word, torn out to share the Treasure.

The Tanzanian Friends churches are long **distances apart**, with difficulty in available transportation, and this was a rare time for them to share in celebrating. An attendance of 100 was expected, but there were that many children! In addition, approximately 90 adults filled the house. What a blessing to see the future of the Tanzanian Friends Churches. This well-behaved group of children joined in singing and dancing, listening and giving with great enthusiasm! At the end of worship, they thankfully received the candy we brought for them.

Not far from the airport at Dar es Salaam, but quite far from Kyela, is another Friends meeting. (Dar is the largest city in eastern Africa and the former capitol of Tanzania.) Four pastors attempted to start churches in and around this city heavily populated with Muslims, but three gave up as they could not find a place to live or to have a church gathering. Only Pastor Joshua Karembu remains with his wife Janet and the three youngest of their five children.

The Karembus have persevered in spite of housing challenges, threats on Joshua's life and stonings during worship services (one in which a daughter was seriously injured) carried out by neighboring Muslims who want

them to leave. (Still Muslims will come for prayer when they are having troubles.) Joshua intends to stay, and model his faith, welcoming all, because God has called him there. The Karembus need prayer, not only for safety, but for encouragement and support by other Friends, financially and emotionally.

With the help of Eglia, a young woman who interpreted for us, we learned of Joshua's vision for Dar, and his challenges. He desires to purchase their rented land, which could be taken at any time by the landlord, so that others identify it as a place to come to worship the one true Lord. Some people believe the church is temporary, and are leaving "because there is no permanent building". Current attendance at worship is 40 to 50 adults, and about 20 children.

If the desired land is purchased, it can be used for his home and a business as well as a more permanent worship center. He and Janet would like a home where they could invite others in for Bible studies and fellowship. Joshua believes he could start and build a thriving pottery business to support his family, if he had equipment and land on which to put it. Finally, Joshua also desires Bibles so that he can preach and teach more effectively.

The IAYM Mission Committee has agreed to join in an effort to raise funds for Bibles to send to the Tanzanian churches. A full Swahili Bible will cost \$15. Tanzanian churches will be asked to contribute a small portion of the funds, and FUM plans to match funds. The mod-

est goal is to raise enough for 15 Bibles at Camp Quaker Heights summer camps, **well below the need** of these five churches! Please encourage your youth to participate in this project. If others desire to contribute, funds can be sent to the IAYM Mission Committee c/o Dorothy Taylor, 1121 Parkway Drive, Apt. 1 Boone, IA 50036 and mark "Bibles for Tanzania" in the memo.

Brenda and I hope to have a poster display of our three week trip to Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda at the annual Ministry Conference of Iowa Yearly Meeting so you can see a bit of what we were so privileged to do as your representatives there.





Camp Quaker Heights

Congratulations
Chip and Alicia
on the arrival of

**Joshua Paul
Daleske**

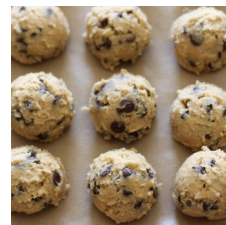
Born March 9, 2016
Weighing in at 9 lbs ~ 9 oz



Annual Cookie Day

April 23rd

**Starting at 9 am. We will provide
the recipes and ingredients.
Bring your own cookie scoop!
It's a fun day of preparing cookie
dough and freezing it to use for
our summer campers!**



Camp Workday is scheduled for:

April 16th

There is lots of general cleaning
tasks to complete! A grab and go
breakfast and full lunch will be pro-
vided.
The fun starts at 9 AM

Mesquakie Friends Workday is:

April 30th

Lunch provided! Bring some food
along to share at the evening pot-
luck and stay for the evening wor-
ship service.



Thank You to the wonderful
people of Iowa Yearly Meeting
for the prayers, cards, and en-
couragement that were offered
during my recent illness. On
March 11, I had to have my ap-
pendix removed. After my release from the
hospital, a couple days later I got very sick and
was readmitted.

I am feeling much better now and was cleared
by the doctor this week to return to normal ac-
tivity.

Thanks again for the concern shown! You are
appreciated! Keep up the great work!

Tom Showalter

General Superintendent, IAYM

revivify

verb re·viv·i·fy \rē-'vi-və-, fī\
: to make (someone or something) strong,
healthy, or active again

2016 Annual

Ministry Conference

July 27—30th, 2016

On the campus of William

Penn University

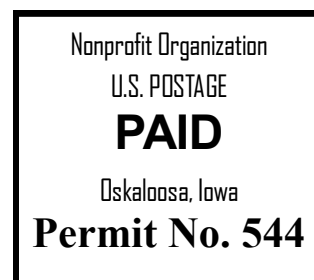
AND

College Avenue Friends

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April 2016 Vol. 71 - No. 4



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Change
Service Requested


Subscription Price (individual)...\$10.00 per year (group)....\$9.50 per year Published monthly except August

New logo contest!

*We are inviting creative and artistic
Friends to offer submissions for a
new Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends
Churches logo.*



*All submissions are to be given by April
30, 2016 and can be sent to the
Yearly Meeting Office.*



USFW
SPRING FLING
CHOOSING GRATITUDE
COLOSSIANS 3:16
APRIL 9, 2016
REGISTRATION BEGINS 9:30
MIDDLE RIVER FRIENDS
4057 S23 HIGHWAY CARLISLE, IA

\$10 will cover your cost for day. Includes
Lunch....Preferred Seating ...and
GREAT fellowship.
Contact Charlotte Mosher at
cmmosher13@yahoo.com OR (515)432-1895
to register!